

**EVENING MEETING
BOARD WORK SESSION
APRIL 16, 1997**

MINUTES

The Board met at 6:00 p.m. at The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capital Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on April 16, 1997. Members present included: Alton Bankston, Yvonne Brown, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, Perrin Purvis, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker. Joanna Heidel was absent. Others present included future board member Sara Fox, and staff (Becky Cade, Deborah Gilbert, Curtis Kynerd, Olon Ray, Ray Smith, and Evelyn Webb).

The meeting was called to order and Dr. Ray welcomed Sara Fox. He reported that the confirmation hearing on Ms. Fox, Billy Hewes, and George Walker had gone well and that all had been confirmed.

Dr. Ray then reported that Mac McClellan was to have surgery Tuesday, April 22, 1997 and that Mac was feeling good about the surgery. Mac has decided to retire effective May 30, 1997. Therefore, the position, Director of Affiliated Activities will be advertised in the near future.

In other personnel matters, Dr. Ray reported that the Associate Executive Director of Programs, Bill Bunch's former position, was in the process of being announced and the deadline for submitting applications for that position is May 2, 1997. Further, he reported that some staff are currently working too hard, but that they are marvelous staff and continue to do well.

Dr. Ray then turned the program over to Dr. Webb, Associate Executive Director of Accountability and Support Services, who in turn, introduced Ray Smith, Management Information Specialist, and Curtis Kynerd, Video Teleconferencing Manager to provide an update on technology initiatives within the SBCJC. Prior to their presentation, Dr. Webb reminded board members that three staff, Ray, Curtis, and Venetria Moore, work full time on technology with support from several other staff including Becky, Dr. Ray, and Dr. Webb.

Ray Smith discussed two major ongoing tasks associated with completing the development of the community and junior college data network: 1. Networking among the colleges' multiple campuses and buildings, and 2. connecting to the SBCJC. A technology contact group, with representation from all of the colleges, meets monthly for the purpose of communicating and organizing the many tasks associated with developing this network. While the colleges are at various stages of connectivity (Refer to handout for Local Campus Network Schedule), the data network is established and currently offers access to the Internet and the ability to exchange E: Mail messages and other resource sharing. (Refer to Handout for more information.)

Curtis Kynerd then proceeded to bring members up to date on the progress within the last year of the compressed video network known as the Community College Network or CCN. Three new compressed video sites have been added, bringing the total number of sites currently operating to twenty-three (23) and there are proposals to add five more sites in the very near future. Two new switches, worth \$60,000 a piece, have been added to the SBCJC's management site which provides

growth potential for additional sites. Two ISDN lines were added to the system, which provides the colleges and the SBCJC the ability to connect and engage in two-way interactive communication with entities outside the state of Mississippi. This line was paid for through a federal grant and activity utilizing this tool will increase. Curtis announced that twenty-three (23) courses are scheduled for the Fall Semester and there is the probability of more than nineteen classes making. Activity on the video network has increased each month each year as is evidenced by the comparison provided in the attached handout.

Curtis continued by discussing an issue significantly effecting compressed video networking. New equipment, which is more flexible, is available and is being purchased by colleges. Connecting this new equipment with older equipment involved quite a bit of changes/coordination with the colleges and other video network, but has been done with success by SBCJC staff.

Finally, Curtis mentioned several special training sessions that have recently been offered or will be offered in the near future over the CCN as follows: three technology training institutes that will provide teachers professional development utilizing compressed video technology; a series of five Radiation, Health, & Safety sessions; three training sessions dealing with HIV and Pregnancy; two leadership training sessions offered by Community College Presidents for faculty, staff, and student development; and connections to three other states to facilitate the Governor's Office of Literacy grant activities. Fall semester plans include offering courses that lead to earning Masters degrees in Nursing and Systems Management.

Dr. Webb then concluded the presentation by saying that we are proud of our technology initiatives. Future initiatives include the identification of staff training needs and improving community and collaboration efforts. Our internal objectives are to make full use of technology to increase the productivity and effectiveness of SBCJC staff and externally to make full use of technology to provide services and to develop and maintain resources for all of our constituents.

Dr. Ray thanked the staff and just expressed his excitement with the abilities the technology offers. He stated that from his desk he could access information on the Titanic and, with the right codes, could access the super computer at Ole Miss. He reiterated his belief that the future of education is in electronics and ultimately home access. The challenge before us is to translate technology into meaningful applications and adequate long-term funding to support it.

Dr. Ray concluded his comments by inviting board members to join staff in a leadership development training session tomorrow afternoon over the CCN. The skills development session will be led by Dr. Bill Scaggs, President of Meridian Community College. He also mentioned that he personally delivered the resolution the board developed honoring Bill Bunch and that Bill asked him to thank the board.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.